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NOTICE OF ALLOWANCE AND FEE(S) DUE

69316 7590 10/04/2010

MICROSOFT CORPORATION
ONE MICROSOFT WAY
REDMOND, WA 98052

EXAMINER

RAYAN, SUSAN F

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2167

DATE MAILED: 10/04/2010

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/749,936	12/30/2003	Brett D. Brewer	306397.01	6684

TITLE OF INVENTION: INCREMENTAL QUERY REFINEMENT

APPLN. TYPE	SMALL ENTITY	ISSUE FEE DUE	PUBLICATION FEE DUE	PREV. PAID ISSUE FEE	TOTAL FEE(S) DUE	DATE DUE
nonprovisional	NO	\$1510	\$0	\$0	\$1510	01/04/2011

THE APPLICATION IDENTIFIED ABOVE HAS BEEN EXAMINED AND IS ALLOWED FOR ISSUANCE AS A PATENT. **PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS CLOSED.** THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWANCE IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS. THIS APPLICATION IS SUBJECT TO WITHDRAWAL FROM ISSUE AT THE INITIATIVE OF THE OFFICE OR UPON PETITION BY THE APPLICANT. SEE 37 CFR 1.313 AND MPEP 1308.

THE ISSUE FEE AND PUBLICATION FEE (IF REQUIRED) MUST BE PAID WITHIN **THREE MONTHS FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS NOTICE** OR THIS APPLICATION SHALL BE REGARDED AS ABANDONED. **THIS STATUTORY PERIOD CANNOT BE EXTENDED.** SEE 35 U.S.C. 151. THE ISSUE FEE DUE INDICATED ABOVE DOES NOT REFLECT A CREDIT FOR ANY PREVIOUSLY PAID ISSUE FEE IN THIS APPLICATION. IF AN ISSUE FEE HAS PREVIOUSLY BEEN PAID IN THIS APPLICATION (AS SHOWN ABOVE), THE RETURN OF PART B OF THIS FORM WILL BE CONSIDERED A REQUEST TO REAPPLY THE PREVIOUSLY PAID ISSUE FEE TOWARD THE ISSUE FEE NOW DUE.

HOW TO REPLY TO THIS NOTICE:

I. Review the SMALL ENTITY status shown above.

If the SMALL ENTITY is shown as YES, verify your current SMALL ENTITY status:

A. If the status is the same, pay the TOTAL FEE(S) DUE shown above.

B. If the status above is to be removed, check box 5b on Part B - Fee(s) Transmittal and pay the PUBLICATION FEE (if required) and twice the amount of the ISSUE FEE shown above, or

If the SMALL ENTITY is shown as NO:

A. Pay TOTAL FEE(S) DUE shown above, or

B. If applicant claimed SMALL ENTITY status before, or is now claiming SMALL ENTITY status, check box 5a on Part B - Fee(s) Transmittal and pay the PUBLICATION FEE (if required) and 1/2 the ISSUE FEE shown above.

II. PART B - FEE(S) TRANSMITTAL, or its equivalent, must be completed and returned to the United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO) with your ISSUE FEE and PUBLICATION FEE (if required). If you are charging the fee(s) to your deposit account, section "4b" of Part B - Fee(s) Transmittal should be completed and an extra copy of the form should be submitted. If an equivalent of Part B is filed, a request to reapply a previously paid issue fee must be clearly made, and delays in processing may occur due to the difficulty in recognizing the paper as an equivalent of Part B.

III. All communications regarding this application must give the application number. Please direct all communications prior to issuance to Mail Stop ISSUE FEE unless advised to the contrary.

IMPORTANT REMINDER: Utility patents issuing on applications filed on or after Dec. 12, 1980 may require payment of maintenance fees. It is patentee's responsibility to ensure timely payment of maintenance fees when due.

PART B - FEE(S) TRANSMITTAL

Complete and send this form, together with applicable fee(s), to: **Mail** **Mail Stop ISSUE FEE**
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P.O. Box 1450
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INSTRUCTIONS: This form should be used for transmitting the ISSUE FEE and PUBLICATION FEE (if required). Blocks 1 through 5 should be completed where appropriate. All further correspondence including the Patent, advance orders and notification of maintenance fees will be mailed to the current correspondence address as indicated unless corrected below or directed otherwise in Block 1, by (a) specifying a new correspondence address; and/or (b) indicating a separate "FEE ADDRESS" for maintenance fee notifications.

CURRENT CORRESPONDENCE ADDRESS (Note: Use Block 1 for any change of address)

Note: A certificate of mailing can only be used for domestic mailings of the Fee(s) Transmittal. This certificate cannot be used for any other accompanying papers. Each additional paper, such as an assignment or formal drawing, must have its own certificate of mailing or transmission.

Certificate of Mailing or Transmission

I hereby certify that this Fee(s) Transmittal is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage for first class mail in an envelope addressed to the Mail Stop ISSUE FEE address above, or being facsimile transmitted to the USPTO (571) 273-2885, on the date indicated below.

(Depositor's name)
(Signature)
(Date)

69316 7590 10/04/2010
MICROSOFT CORPORATION
ONE MICROSOFT WAY
REDMOND, WA 98052

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Brett D. Brewer

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TITLE OF INVENTION: INCREMENTAL QUERY REFINEMENT

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nonprovisional	NO	\$1510	\$0	\$0	\$1510	01/04/2011

EXAMINER	ART UNIT	CLASS-SUBCLASS
RAYYAN, SUSAN F	2167	707-767000

1. Change of correspondence address or indication of "Fee Address" (37 CFR 1.363).

☐ Change of correspondence address (or Change of Correspondence Address form PTO/SB-122) attached.

☐ "Fee Address" indication (or "Fee Address" Indication form PTO/SB-47; Rev 03-02 or more recent) attached. Use of a **Customer Number is required.**

2. For printing on the patent front page, list

- (1) the names of up to 3 registered patent attorneys or agents OR, alternatively, 1 _____
 (2) the name of a single firm (having as a member a registered attorney or agent) and the names of up to 2 registered patent attorneys or agents. If no name is listed, no name will be printed. 2 _____
 3 _____

3. ASSIGNEE NAME AND RESIDENCE DATA TO BE PRINTED ON THE PATENT (print or type)

PLEASE NOTE: Unless an assignee is identified below, no assignee data will appear on the patent. If an assignee is identified below, the document has been filed for recordation as set forth in 37 CFR 3.11. Completion of this form is NOT a substitute for filing an assignment.

(A) NAME OF ASSIGNEE

(B) RESIDENCE: (CITY and STATE OR COUNTRY)

Please check the appropriate assignee category or categories (will not be printed on the patent): ☐ Individual ☐ Corporation or other private group entity ☐ Government

4a. The following fee(s) are submitted:

- ☐ Issue Fee
☐ Publication Fee (No small entity discount permitted)
☐ Advance Order - # of Copies _____

4b. Payment of Fee(s): (Please first reapply any previously paid issue fee shown above)

- ☐ A check is enclosed.
☐ Payment by credit card. Form PTO-2038 is attached.
☐ The Director is hereby authorized to charge the required fee(s), any deficiency, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account Number _____ (enclose an extra copy of this form).

5. Change in Entity Status (from status indicated above)

- ☐ a. Applicant claims SMALL ENTITY status. See 37 CFR 1.27. ☐ b. Applicant is no longer claiming SMALL ENTITY status. See 37 CFR 1.27(g)(2).

NOTE: The Issue Fee and Publication Fee (if required) will not be accepted from anyone other than the applicant; a registered attorney or agent; or the assignee or other party in interest as shown by the records of the United States Patent and Trademark Office.

Authorized Signature _____ Date _____
 Typed or printed name _____ Registration No. _____

This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.311. The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 12 minutes to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, U.S. Department of Commerce, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450.

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10/749,936	12/30/2003	Brett D. Brewer	306397.01	6684
69316	7590	10/04/2010	EXAMINER	
MICROSOFT CORPORATION ONE MICROSOFT WAY REDMOND, WA 98052			RAYYAN, SUSAN F	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			2167	
DATE MAILED: 10/04/2010				

Determination of Patent Term Adjustment under 35 U.S.C. 154 (b) (application filed on or after May 29, 2000)

The Patent Term Adjustment to date is 514 day(s). If the issue fee is paid on the date that is three months after the mailing date of this notice and the patent issues on the Tuesday before the date that is 28 weeks (six and a half months) after the mailing date of this notice, the Patent Term Adjustment will be 514 day(s).

If a Continued Prosecution Application (CPA) was filed in the above-identified application, the filing date that determines Patent Term Adjustment is the filing date of the most recent CPA.

Applicant will be able to obtain more detailed information by accessing the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) WEB site (<http://pair.uspto.gov>).

Any questions regarding the Patent Term Extension or Adjustment determination should be directed to the Office of Patent Legal Administration at (571)-272-7702. Questions relating to issue and publication fee payments should be directed to the Customer Service Center of the Office of Patent Publication at 1-(888)-786-0101 or (571)-272-4200.

Notice of Allowability**Application No.**

10/749,936

Applicant(s)

BREWER ET AL.

Examiner

SUSAN FOSTER RAYYAN

Art Unit

2167

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to 5/24/2010.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1,3-5,10-14,16,20-21,24-25,41-46, now renumbered as claims 1-20.
3. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
(a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
(b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☒ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date 3/22/2004
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____.
7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____.

Reasons for Allowance

Information Disclosure Statement

1. The information disclosure statement (IDS) submitted on March 22, 2004 was filed before First Office Action. The submission is in compliance with the provisions of 37 CFR 1.97. Accordingly, the information disclosure statement is being considered by the examiner.
2. This Information Disclosure Statement was originally considered with the Office Action mailed on July 25, 2006 however upon review of the application history an initialed copy was not found. Therefore, the Examiner has considered the IDS again.

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

3. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it **MUST** be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee. Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with L. Alan Collins on September 24, 2010.

The application has been amended as follows:

Claims

Replaced claims 12-13, 20-21, 24-25, 41-46 with the following:

12. (Currently Amended) Computer readable storage media with ~~comprising~~ computer-executable instructions stored thereon that, when executed by a computer, cause the computer to perform the method of claim 1.

13. (Currently Amended) A method of incrementally refining queries without requiring a user to provide an explicit indicator of submission of the query, the method comprising:

defining a query related character pattern that does not include the explicit indicator of submission of the query but that does include:

a series of characters followed by a space character,

one or more characters followed by a predefined time delay,

one or more characters followed by a deleted character,

a predefined number of characters, and

predefined words;

detecting entry, by a user, of a query defining characters that match the defined query related character pattern, wherein the query is comprised of the query defining characters word that does not include the explicit indicator of submission of the query;

simultaneously providing the user, in response to the detecting, with both an updated query result list and a list of one or more query refinement options, wherein

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both the updated query result list and the list of one or more query refinement options correspond to the query defining characters word; and
wherein the method is performed by a computer.

20. (Currently Amended) Computer readable storage media with ~~comprising~~ computer-executable instructions stored thereon that, when executed by a computer, cause the computer to perform the method of claim 13.

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21. (Currently Amended) A method of incrementally refining a query without requiring a user to provide an explicit indicator of submission of the query, the method comprising:

detecting entry, by a user, of a completed query defining word;

simultaneously providing the user, in response to the detecting, with both a query result list and a list of one or more query refinement options, wherein both the query result list and the list of one or more query refinement options correspond to the completed query defining word, and wherein each of the one or more query refinement options is displayed in an updated result query list with an adjacent type icon from a plurality of type icons including a spell correct icon and a narrowing icon and a broadening icon and a synonym icon, wherein the spell correct icon indicates that an adjacent query refinement option represents a spelling correction, and wherein the narrowing icon indicates that an adjacent query refinement option narrows the query, and wherein the broadening icon indicates that an adjacent query refinement option broadens the query, and wherein the synonym icon indicates that an adjacent query refinement option includes a synonym;

receiving a selection, from the user, of one of the one or more query refinement options;

providing the user, in response to the receiving a selection, with the [[an]] updated query result list, wherein the updated query result list corresponds to the one of the one or more query refinement options; and

wherein the method is performed by a computer.

24. (Currently Amended) Computer readable storage media with comprising computer-executable instructions stored thereon that, when executed by a computer, cause the computer to perform the method of claim 21.

25. (Currently Amended) A system comprising:

an input device configured to receive, from a user, query defining characters that do not include an explicit indicator of submission of a query, wherein the query is comprised of the query defining characters;

a display configured to simultaneously present to the user, in response to the received query defining characters, both a query result list and a list of query refinement options, wherein both the query result list and the list of query refinement options correspond to the received query defining characters, and wherein each of the one or more query refinement options in the updated list is displayed with an adjacent type icon from a plurality of type icons including a spell correct icon and a narrowing icon and a broadening icon and a synonym icon, wherein the spell correct icon indicates that an adjacent query refinement option is a spelling correction, and wherein the narrowing icon indicates that an adjacent query refinement option narrows the query, and wherein the broadening icon indicates that an adjacent query refinement option broadens the query, and wherein the synonym icon indicates that an adjacent query refinement option includes a synonym.

41. (Currently Amended) One or more ~~physical~~ computer-readable storage media ~~with comprising~~ computer-executable instructions stored thereon that, when executed by a computer, cause the computer to perform a method of incrementally refining a query without requiring a user to provide an explicit indicator of submission of the query, the method comprising:

defining a query related character pattern that does not include the explicit indicator of submission of the query but that does include:

a series of characters followed by a space character,

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one or more characters followed by a predefined time delay,
one or more characters followed by a deleted character,
a predefined number of characters, and
predefined words;

detecting entry, by a user, of query defining characters that match the defined query related character pattern, wherein the query is comprised of the query defining characters;

simultaneously providing the user, in response to the detecting, with both an updated query result list and a list of one or more query refinement options, wherein both the updated query result list and the list of one or more query refinement options correspond to the query defining characters, and wherein each of the one or more query refinement options in the list is displayed with an adjacent type icon from a plurality of type icons including a spell correct icon and a narrowing icon and a broadening icon and a synonym icon, wherein the spell correct icon indicates that an adjacent query refinement option is a spelling correction, and wherein the narrowing icon indicates that an adjacent query refinement option narrows the query, and wherein the broadening icon indicates that an adjacent query refinement option broadens the query, and wherein the synonym icon indicates that an adjacent query refinement option includes a synonym.

42. (Currently Amended) The one or more ~~physical~~ computer-readable storage media of claim 41, the method further comprising adjusting the query refinement options based on a profile of the user.

43. (Currently Amended) The one or more ~~physical~~-computer-readable storage media of claim 41, the method further comprising adjusting an order of the updated query result list based on a profile of the user.

44. (Currently Amended) The one or more ~~physical~~ computer-readable storage media of claim 41, the method further comprising providing, in response to the simultaneously providing, a visual indicator to the user.

45. (Currently Amended) The one or more ~~physical~~ computer-readable storage media of claim 41, the method further comprising modifying, based on user input, the query related character pattern.

46. (Currently Amended) The one or more ~~physical~~ computer-readable storage media of claim 41, the method further comprising changing the defined query related character pattern in response to a change in a connection speed.

4. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

Independent claims 12,20,24,41 have been interpreted as covering only statutory embodiments and not non-statutory embodiments.

Regarding independent claim 1 prior art of record does not teach defining a query related character pattern that does not include the explicit indicator of submission of the query but that does include: a series of characters followed by a space character, one or more characters followed by a predefined time delay, one or more characters followed by a deleted character, a predefined number of

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characters, and predefined words and wherein each of the one or more query refinement options in the updated list is displayed with an adjacent type icon from a plurality of type icons including a spell correct icon and a narrowing icon and a broadening icon and a synonym icon, wherein the spell correct icon indicates that an adjacent query refinement option is a spelling correction, and wherein the narrowing icon indicates that an adjacent query refinement option narrows the query, and wherein the broadening icon indicates that an adjacent query refinement option broadens the query, and wherein the synonym icon indicates that an adjacent query refinement option includes a synonym.

Regarding independent claim 12 prior art of record does not teach defining a query related character pattern that does not include the explicit indicator of submission of the query but that does include: a series of characters followed by a space character, one or more characters followed by a predefined time delay, one or more characters followed by a deleted character, a predefined number of characters, and predefined words and wherein each of the one or more query refinement options in the updated list is displayed with an adjacent type icon from a plurality of type icons including a spell correct icon and a narrowing icon and a broadening icon and a synonym icon, wherein the spell correct icon indicates that an adjacent query refinement option is a spelling correction, and wherein the narrowing icon indicates that an adjacent query refinement option narrows the query, and wherein the broadening icon indicates that an adjacent query

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refinement option broadens the query, and wherein the synonym icon indicates that an adjacent query refinement option includes a synonym.

Regarding independent claim 13 prior art of record does not teach defining a query related character pattern that does not include the explicit indicator of submission of the query but that does include: a series of characters followed by a space character, one or more characters followed by a predefined time delay, the or more characters followed by a deleted character, a predefined number of characters, and predefined words and simultaneously providing the user, in response to the detecting, with both an updated query result list and a list of one or more query refinement options, wherein both the updated query result list and the list of one or more query refinement options correspond to the query defining characters.

Regarding independent claim 20 prior art of record does not teach defining a query related character pattern that does not include the explicit indicator of submission of the query but that does include: a series of characters followed by a space character, one or more characters followed by a predefined time delay, the or more characters followed by a deleted character, a predefined number of characters, and predefined words and simultaneously providing the user, in response to the detecting, with both an updated query result list and a list

of one or more query refinement options, wherein both the updated query result list and the list of one or more query refinement options correspond to the query defining characters.

Regarding independent claim 21 prior art of record does not teach simultaneously providing the user, in response to the detecting, with both a query result list and a list of one or more query refinement options, wherein both the query result list and the list of one or more query refinement options correspond to the completed query defining word, and wherein each of the one or more query refinement options is displayed in an updated result query list with an adjacent type icon from a plurality of type icons including a spell correct icon and a narrowing icon and a broadening icon and a synonym icon, wherein the spell correct icon indicates that an adjacent query refinement option represents a spelling correction, and wherein the narrowing icon indicates that an adjacent query refinement option narrows the query, and wherein the broadening icon indicates that an adjacent query refinement option broadens the query, and wherein the synonym icon indicates that an adjacent query refinement option includes a synonym.

Regarding independent claim 24 prior art of record does not teach simultaneously providing the user, in response to the detecting, with both a query result list and a list of one or more query refinement options, wherein both the query result list and the list of one or more query refinement options correspond

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to the completed query defining word, and wherein each of the one or more query refinement options is displayed in an updated result query list with an adjacent type icon from a plurality of type icons including a spell correct icon and a narrowing icon and a broadening icon and a synonym icon, wherein the spell correct icon indicates that an adjacent query refinement option represents a spelling correction, and wherein the narrowing icon indicates that an adjacent query refinement option narrows the query, and wherein the broadening icon indicates that an adjacent query refinement option broadens the query, and wherein the synonym icon indicates that an adjacent query refinement option includes a synonym.

Regarding independent claim 25 prior art of record does not teach a display configured to simultaneously present to the user, in response to the received query defining characters, both a query result list and a list of query refinement options, wherein both the query result list and the list of query refinement options correspond to the received query defining characters, and wherein each of the one or more query refinement options in the updated list is displayed with an adjacent type icon from a plurality of type icons including a spell correct icon and a narrowing icon and a broadening icon and a synonym icon, wherein the spell correct icon indicates that an adjacent query refinement option is a spelling correction, and wherein the narrowing icon indicates that an adjacent query refinement option narrows the query, and wherein the broadening icon indicates that an adjacent query refinement option broadens the query, and wherein the

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synonym icon indicates that an adjacent query refinement option includes a synonym.

Regarding independent claim 41 prior art of record does not teach defining a query related character pattern that does not include the explicit indicator of submission of the query but that does include: a series of characters followed by a space character, one or more characters followed by a predefined time delay, one or more characters followed by a deleted character, a predefined number of characters, and predefined words and simultaneously providing the user, in response to the detecting, with both an updated query result list and a list of one or more query refinement options, wherein both the updated query result list and the list of one or more query refinement options correspond to the query defining characters, and wherein each of the one or more query refinement options in the list is displayed with an adjacent type icon from a plurality of type icons including a spell correct icon and a narrowing icon and a broadening icon and a synonym icon, wherein the spell correct icon indicates that an adjacent query refinement option is a spelling correction, and wherein the narrowing icon indicates that an adjacent query refinement option narrows the query, and wherein the broadening icon indicates that an adjacent query refinement option broadens the query, and wherein the synonym icon indicates that an adjacent query refinement option includes a synonym.

5. Claims 1, 3-5, 10-14, 16, 20-21, 24-25, 41-46 are allowed.

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6. Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Contact Information

7. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to SUSAN FOSTER RAYYAN whose telephone number is (571)272-1675. The examiner can normally be reached on M-W, W-F 7-5:30.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, John Cottingham can be reached on 571-272-7079. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/John R. Cottingham/
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 2167

/K. S. L./
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 2156

/SUSAN FOSTER RAYYAN/
Examiner, Art Unit 2167
September 25, 2010